STATE SENATOR - GILDA Z. JACOBS - 14TH DISTRICT

Jacobs Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) September 12, 2006 517/373-7888

SEN. JACOBS PRAISES SENATE COLLEAGUES' SUPPORT OF MANDATORY CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION

LANSING – Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) praised today's introduction of bipartisan legislation that will require all girls entering sixth grade to receive vaccinations which will protect against the cervical cancer virus. Senate Bills 1416 and 1417, which were cosponsored by Jacobs, will require that a vaccine for the human papillomavirus (HPV) be added to Michigan public schools and academies' required immunization schedules for next year. The vaccine has proven 100 percent effective at preventing disease from the two HPV types responsible for 70 percent of all cervical cancers.

"This is public health policy that promises to have a major impact on girls and women for generations," Sen. Jacobs said. "To participate in an initiative that can actually *prevent* cancer is extremely rewarding."

While the legislation follows recent FDA approval of the vaccine for girls and women between nine and 26, the Senate bills will include immunizations for girls aged 11 and 12. As with similar school-required vaccines, parents/guardians can exempt children from required vaccines for medical, religious, or philosophical reasons.

The legislation has received unanimous support of all women serving in the Michigan State Senate. It is expected to come before the Senate for a vote before the end of September.

While some 45 states have introduced similar legislation to address this issue, Michigan is the first state to require the vaccine for school entry.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees